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Farms with Telephones Continue Increase

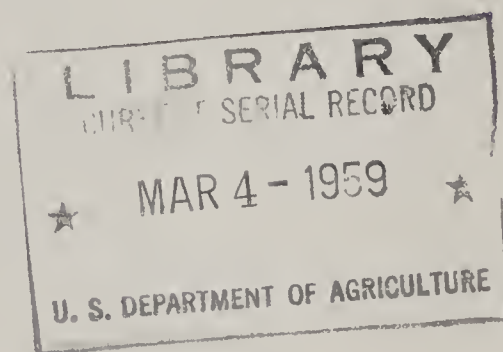
The percent of farms with telephones is double what it was in 1940 and continues to increase in most States, but at a decreasing rate except in the southern and southwestern States, according to the survey made as of July 1 each year by the Crop Reporting Board. The southern States lead the increase since 1940 primarily because of the low proportion of farms in those States having telephones.

Using Census data for 1940, 1945, and 1950 and yearly data from the Crop Reporting Board surveys beginning with 1947, comparisons are made to show rapid increase in the number of telephones in farm homes during the last 16 years. Beginning with 1940, the North Atlantic States, the North Central, and the Mountain States made their largest percentage increases in farms with telephones during the 1940-45 period. For these areas the rate of the increase declined for the next two successive 5 year periods. In the remaining parts of the country, the largest increases, percentagewise, were during 1950-55.

In 1940 there were only 7 States in which as many as 50 percent of the farms had telephone service. By 1945 eight more States had reached the 50 percent mark. The 1950 Census showed 28 States having 50 percent or more of their farms with telephones. As of 1955 only 17 States remained under 50 percent with 13 States having 75 percent or more.

Since 1947, the percentage of farms with telephone service has continued to increase in practically all States. However, in some Northeastern States there has been a reduction in the actual number of phones even though the percentage increased slightly because of a decline in the total number of farms.

As of July 1, 1956, the States having the highest percentage of farms receiving telephone service were Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Jersey.



Percent Farms with Telephones, United States - July 1,
Selected years, by States

State and division:	1940 1/	1945 1/	1947	1950 1/	1953	1954	1955	1956
Maine	44	54	61	64	68	70	74	78
N.H.	52	63	70	75	78	78	79	80
Vt.	47	55	61	70	72	73	76	76
Mass.	54	71	73	78	86	88	90	90
R.I.	50	65	69	77	81	82	84	84
Conn.	62	77	78	84	88	92	94	94
N.Y.	39	52	56	70	80	82	83	85
N.J.	36	53	59	72	81	84	88	90
Pa.	32	40	45	53	64	66	69	72
Ohio	38	50	54	60	66	69	72	72
Ind.	45	55	57	62	66	71	72	74
Ill.	50	61	63	65	71	73	74	78
Mich.	28	39	42	53	60	64	68	69
Wis.	39	48	52	59	63	66	68	70
Minn.	45	55	56	60	65	68	69	71
Iowa	67	79	80	82	84	86	88	88
Mo.	39	45	45	46	50	52	53	54
N.Dak.	28	34	39	42	44	44	46	48
S.Dak.	34	45	46	56	58	58	60	62
Nebr.	43	56	60	65	70	72	72	74
Kans.	51	65	66	68	71	74	75	79
Del.	25	40	53	67	77	80	84	86
Md.	31	42	44	54	64	66	68	70
Va.	15	18	19	24	30	31	34	38
W.Va.	20	22	25	27	32	32	33	36
N.C.	4	5	6	8	11	15	18	21
S.C.	3	4	4	8	14	16	20	22
Ga.	4	6	6	9	16	21	22	27
Fla.	6	10	12	18	25	31	36	42
Ky.	16	18	18	21	24	24	28	31
Tenn.	13	16	16	19	26	29	32	37
Ala.	4	5	6	8	13	14	16	19
Miss.	3	4	4	6	11	12	16	21
Ark.	5	7	8	10	14	15	18	20
La.	3	5	7	12	21	24	28	32
Okla.	18	25	28	33	40	42	46	48
Texas	13	18	20	24	33	36	39	42
Mont.	17	21	24	28	33	36	40	46
Idaho	29	42	47	55	63	66	68	70
Wyo.	24	31	33	38	44	49	54	56
Colo.	33	46	52	59	64	66	68	68
N.Mex.	7	11	12	15	23	26	28	31
Ariz.	14	36	38	42	50	54	58	60
Utah	20	32	42	52	66	70	76	76
Nev.	34	44	46	50	57	60	62	64
Wash.	32	44	50	57	70	72	76	77
Oreg.	34	41	45	50	64	68	72	76
Calif.	34	44	46	57	71	75	78	80
U. S.	25.0	31.8	33.7	38.3	44.2	46.7	49.2	51.9

1/ Bureau of Census, Dept. of Commerce.